

ADVISORY BOARD BIOGRAPHIES



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Art Acevedo is currently the Chief of Police for the Houston Police Department (HPD) in Texas and was appointed by Mayor Sylvester Turner. He was sworn into office on November 30, 2016, and leads a department of 5,300 sworn law enforcement officers and 892 civilian support personnel in the fourth largest city in the United States that has 671 square miles and an annual general fund budget of \$899 million.

Chief Acevedo firmly believes that good, two-way communication is vital for a successful community and steadily works to strengthen the bond between the community and its police department. As a proponent of community policing, Chief Acevedo refers to the proven practice as “*Relational Policing*,” which is an opportunity to forge a relationship with each and every person a department member comes in contact with. He also subscribes to law enforcement being a data driven, intelligence led process that is well-suited to the policing profession in the 21st Century.

As the first Hispanic to lead HPD, Chief Acevedo brings a unique understanding to the concerns of the diverse communities in Houston. Born in Cuba, he was four years old when he immigrated to the United States with his family in 1968. Acevedo subsequently grew up in California and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne in California.

Acevedo began his law enforcement career with the California Highway Patrol in 1986 as a field patrol officer in East Los Angeles. Ultimately, he rose through the ranks and was named Chief of the California Highway Patrol in 2005. Prior to his nomination and appointment to lead the Houston Police Department, Chief Acevedo served nine years as the Chief of Police for the Austin, Texas Police Department from 2007 – 2016.

Chief Acevedo has held various leadership positions with the Major Cities Chiefs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and is currently the President of the Major Cities Chiefs Association. He is married and has three children.



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Francis Adewale is one of the attorneys that helped establish Spokane Community Court. He has served as chair of Refugee Connections Spokane and co-chair of Spokane Homeless Coalition. He currently serves as co-chair of the Spokane County Regional Law & Justice Council's Racial Equity Disparity Subcommittee, board member/trustee of Spokane County Bar Association and the Volunteer Lawyers Program. He is the current vice president of JustLead Washington. He was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to a three year term as member of the Washington Statewide Reentry Council in 2016 and reappointed for another 3 year term in 2019. He is a current member of the Access to Justice Board and Washington State Supreme Court's Interpreters Commission.

Francis is H. George Frederickson Honors Graduate of Eastern Washington University and was admitted to the Washington State Bar in June 2000. Francis was born in southwest Nigeria. He has served as Assistant Public Defender for the City of Spokane since May 2001. In addition to his work as city public defender, Francis serves on several community based board and activities in Eastern Washington. A Fellow of Washington State Bar Association Leadership Institute (WLI) and ATJ Equal Justice Leadership Academy. Francis is a recipient of City of Spokane Human Rights Award, Washington Criminal Defense Lawyers' President Award and Spokane County Bar Association Smithmoore P. Myers Professionalism Award. Francis, along with other team members of Spokane Community Court are recipient of 2018 WSBA Apex Award.



Email:
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Hon. Scott Ahlf is the Olympia Municipal Court Judge. He has been in that position since 2004. In 2016, Scott worked with the local government, legal, and social services community to create the Olympia Community Court. The Olympia Community Court works in collaboration with the police department, prosecutors' office, public defense, and social service community to break the cycle of crime, reduce recidivism, and reduce overall impact on the justice system involving offenders committing nonviolent offenses through case management and access to supportive services.

In recognition of its innovative approach to solving the issues facing the community court participants, the Olympia Community Court was named a mentor community court through the Center for Court Innovation, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance. In the role of mentor court, the Court routinely hosts visitors from other jurisdictions. Judge Ahlf and other community court personnel have presented on the therapeutic

approach at many national, state, and local conferences and programs.

Scott is a Past-President of the Washington State District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA) and a past member of the Washington State Board for Judicial Administration. Scott is currently a member of the Washington State Judicial Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the DMCJA Council on Independent Courts.



Email:
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Steve Binder served as a deputy public defender with the San Diego Office of the Primary Public Defender for nearly 30 years. He co-founded the Homeless Court Program (HCP) in 1989, at Stand Down, and the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) in 2011. He represented the first VTC participants to receive Restorative Relief under Penal Code 1170.9(h) in California. He authored a grant request for Dept. of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance funding for the HCP. Mr. Binder has received many awards for his work. In May 2013, he received the Thomas Wynn Sr. Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement from the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. In November 2009, he received the VA Secretary's Award for Achievement in Service to Homeless Veterans from Eric Shinseki in Washington D.C. In 2018, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Judicial Council of California, presented by Chief Justice Hon. Tani Cantil-Sakauye. He is a Special Advisor and former Chair to the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty. He serves on the Judicial Council Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee for the Judicial Council of California.



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Tom Carr is the Boulder, Colorado City Attorney and primary legal advisor to the City Council and City Manager. He manages the City Attorney's Office staff and outside counsel arrangements and is responsible for prosecuting violations of city ordinances. Tom is a member of the Board or Directors of the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and a regional vice president of the International Municipal Lawyers Association.

From 2002 through 2009, Tom was the city attorney in Seattle, Washington. Tom brought a collaborative problem-solving approach to the task of addressing public safety and community issues by building partnerships with courts, other prosecutors, social service providers and community leaders. In Seattle, Tom built a citywide Community Prosecution program and was a

founder of the first Community Court in the state of Washington.

Prior to serving as Seattle City Attorney, Tom was a partner in a Seattle law firm specializing in commercial litigation. From 1986 through 1990, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, specializing in organized crime civil RICO cases.

Tom earned a sociology degree from St. John's University and his law degree from New York Law School as a night student. He served as Research and Articles editor on the Law Review, on the Moot Court Board and as part of the National Moot Court team. During the days, Tom worked as a computer programmer.



Email:
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Dr. Richard Cho joined CCEH in November 2018 as the Chief Executive Officer. He brought 20 years of experience in the housing and homelessness sector. From 2013 to 2016, Cho served as the Deputy Director at the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, the federal agency that coordinates the federal response to homelessness. At USICH, Dr. Cho was responsible for coordinating the efforts across 19 federal departments to implement Opening Doors, the federal strategic plan to end and prevent homelessness in America, and played a key role in the national push to end veteran and chronic homelessness. He also held several positions at the Corporation for Supportive Housing, where he spearheaded the development of supportive housing models and policies for people experiencing homelessness, veterans, justice-involved populations, and other vulnerable populations. For the last two and half years, Cho has been helping to lead national efforts to improve police interactions with people with mental health needs, and to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails, including helping to increase connections to stable housing. He currently serves on New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's Crisis Prevention and Response Task Force, as well as the Kings County/Brooklyn (NY) District Attorney Eric Gonzalez's Justice 2020 Committee, Mental Health Subcommittee.



Email:
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Sean Clark, J.D. serves as National Director, Veterans Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. VA's Veterans Justice Programs include Health Care for Reentry Veterans, which provides outreach and linkage to VA services for Veterans reentering communities after long-term incarceration in state and federal prisons, and Veterans Justice Outreach, which serves Veterans involved with the "front end" of the criminal justice system (police, courts, and jails). Together, these programs are a prevention-oriented component of VA's effort to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans, targeting the close relationship between incarceration and homelessness. Their mission also includes facilitating Veterans' access to legal services, including by supporting the growing number of free legal clinics operating in VA facilities.

Mr. Clark joined the VA in 2007 as a Presidential Management Fellow. He has also served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, DC. Mr. Clark earned his J.D. from William & Mary School of Law



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Hon. Linda Cooke has been the Presiding Judge for the Boulder Municipal Court since 2002. She graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law and the University of Vermont (undergraduate). She was a law clerk for Colorado Supreme Court Justice William Neighbors before working for the Colorado State Public Defender's Office. Before becoming a judge, she spent thirteen years as a defender at the trial and appellate levels, and four years as an administrator for a juvenile justice grant program that combined justice, social service, and mental health dollars to serve juvenile offenders using an integrated care model.

Judge Cooke has been the Presiding Judge at the Boulder Municipal Court since 2002. Hallmarks of Judge Cooke's work at the Court include extensive use of restorative justice, procedural fairness, and alternative sanctions that seek to address the problems underlying law violations. She has a long history of partnering with the University of Colorado at Boulder to develop a coordinated response to high risk alcohol use by young adult violators, and their impacts on the community.

Judge Cooke also has significant experience in collaborating with homeless service providers, as well as working to directly assist Boulder's homeless offenders. These efforts are supported by homeless navigators embedded in the court. The navigators

collaborate closely with the police department's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) officers to facilitate transportation and other forms of assistance so that homeless defendants can obtain needed services and documentation. As the recipient of a 2019 Technical Assistance Grant, the court is working closely with the Center for Court Innovation to plan for implementation of a Community Court to enhance its programming for this population.

Finally, Judge Cooke is one of a core group of municipal judges from across the country seeking to establish a national peer learning network for municipal courts.



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Dr. Sean Goodison is a Deputy Director and Senior Research Criminologist at the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). His work focuses on quantitative research, research methodology, program evaluation, police use of technology, and national data collection efforts. He is a member of the FBI's Use of Force Data Task Force and BJS's NIBRS Methodology Team. Prior to joining PERF, he was a Law Enforcement Analyst and civilian researcher for the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPDC). At MPDC, he was responsible for a wide variety of research activities, including the geographic analysis of seasonal crime and collection homicide data for the Chief and command staff. Dr. Goodison has been the primary investigator on several studies, including a randomized controlled trial assessing the impact of body-worn cameras on citizen perceptions, and a project to collect and analyze 15 years of homicide data from official records in Washington, D.C. He leads PERF's two NIJ-funded randomized controlled trial studying the effect of reassurance policing strategies on various outcomes, including crime, procedural justice, and private-public partnerships. Additionally, Dr. Goodison recent facilitated an NIJ-sponsored meeting on the police response to homelessness. He has worked on numerous other policing-related grants, including an NIJ predictive policing grant in Washington, D.C and BJA homicide assessments in New Orleans, Baltimore, Cleveland, and Houston. Dr. Goodison has published and presented on various criminological issues, such as police use of technology, firearms, homicide, data quality in policing, and the history of criminological thought. He received his Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland College Park and has two master's degrees, one in Forensic Science and another in Criminal Justice, from The George Washington University.



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Rosanne Haggerty is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Community Solutions. She is an internationally recognized leader in developing innovative strategies to end homelessness and strengthen communities. Community Solutions' large-scale change initiatives include the 100,000 Homes and Built for Zero Campaigns to end chronic and veteran homelessness, and neighborhood partnerships that bring together local residents and institutions to change the conditions that produce homelessness. Earlier, she founded Common Ground Community, a pioneer in the design and development of supportive housing and research-based practices that end homelessness.

Ms. Haggerty is a MacArthur Foundation Fellow, Ashoka Senior Fellow, Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur, and the recipient of honors including the Jane Jacobs Medal for New Ideas and Activism from the Rockefeller Foundation, Cooper Hewitt/Smithsonian Design Museum's National Design Award and Independent Sector's John W. Gardner Leadership Award.



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Polly Hanson is the Senior Director of Security Risk and Emergency Management at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). APTA is the leading force in advancing public transportation in North America. To strengthen and improve public transportation, Ms. Hanson coordinates with stakeholders to develop transit security, risk and emergency management standards and policies. Hanson performs peer reviews and assists with safety audits and serves as an advocate for transportation security as well as a source matter expert on transit security, risk and emergency management issues and concerns.

Previously Ms. Hanson was the Chief of Police for AMTRAK where she led a national police department responsible for protecting over 30 million passengers and 20,000 employees.

Prior to Amtrak, Polly was a career SES 1811 serving as the Director of the Office of Law Enforcement and Security for the Department of the Interior.

At the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington D.C., Polly was the Executive Director, Strategic Services Bureau where as a civilian Assistant Chief she oversaw the development of policy and procedures, tactical crime analysis and research, strategic planning, applicant and promotional testing.

Polly began her career at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) where she progressed through the ranks. As the Chief of the Metro Transit Police, Polly led a tristate police department comprised of 1,500 square miles and oversaw a budget of \$50 million, with 553 personnel and led the response to the terrorist attacks in Madrid and London, help create public awareness campaigns and was an original member of the Peer Advisory Group (PAG) for the TSA Administrator.

Polly received her Masters degree in Applied Behavioral Science from Johns Hopkins and her Bachelors degree in Communications from Temple University. In addition, Polly continued her education by attending the F.B.I. National Executive Institute, the F.B.I. Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, and the F.B.I. National Academy. Polly is working to obtain her FTA TSSP and SMS certifications.

Polly is the recipient of WMATA's Carmen E. Turner Award and was awarded a COMTO Women Who Move the Nation Award. Polly is a member of the Operation Lifesaver, Inc. Board and is the Vice-Chair of the TSA Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee.



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Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch is the Presiding Judge of the Queens Drug Treatment Court, the DWI Treatment Court, the Mental Health Court, the Veterans Court and the Drug Diversion Court. She was appointed to the New York Court of Claims in March, 2005 and was assigned to Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term. She presided over hearings and trials before she was assigned to the therapeutic courts in October, 2005. Judge Hirsch has lectured extensively on therapeutic justice, trauma-informed courts, and procedural justice. She is a past president of the New York Association of Treatment Court Professionals. She joined the faculty of the National Judicial College in 2015.

Judge Hirsch is a graduate of Union College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law. She served for nine years on the Rockville Centre School Board and also was a member of her community's Drug & Alcohol Task Force. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Hirsch was the General Counsel and Deputy Commissioner at the New York State Division of Housing & Community Renewal. Before that, she was in private practice for many years.



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Rasmia Kirmani-Fry is an independent consultant focusing on urban problem solving, housing, movement building, governance design, non-profit management, narrative development and strategic planning. Rasmia is currently working with the Ford Foundation to build a national network on public housing reform. Until December 2018, Mrs. Kirmani-Fry was director at the Office of Public/Private Partnerships for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), appointed to the executive team in 2015. She developed and managed NYCHA's strategic relationships with external entities including not-for-profit organizations, philanthropic investors and private sector partners. While at NYCHA, Ms. Kirmani-Fry founded The Fund for Public Housing in 2016 where she served as its first president. The Fund for Public Housing invests in the well-being of public housing residents and their communities by collaborating with partners to re-imagine and improve the way public housing in NYC works. Prior to that Mrs. Kirmani-Fry served as director of The Brownsville Partnership, a community based organization. She spearheaded the effort to build the collective impact neighborhood network of 31 organizations by working with community residents, many of whom live in public housing. She earned a master of science in Urban and Public Policy from The New School and a bachelor of arts in Urban Studies from the College of Wooster in Ohio. She is a trustee of the New York Foundation, board member of the Hester Street Collaborative, on the national advisory board of the Center for Court Innovation, and advisor to Made in Brownsville, Inc. In 2018, the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation named Ms. Kirmani-Fry a Sterling Network Fellow—48 New York City leaders from government, non-profit and business sectors working together to tackle the challenge of increasing economic mobility across the five boroughs.



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Hon. Mary Logan has been practicing law for over 30 years as a licensed attorney in California (1988) and in Washington (1996) with a broad base of experience as an attorney. She was the Presiding Judge of the Spokane Municipal Court from 2009 through 2014 and has been a sitting judge since appointment and uncontested elections from 2009 to present.

As a Judge, she has been an elected member of the DMCJA Board of Governors from 2010- 2014, and presently with committee work on the Therapeutic Courts Committee, Pre-Trial Task Force Co-Chair, Trial Court Sentencing and Supervision Committee (formally the Adult Static Risk Assessment Committee) – currently on hiatus, the Board for Judicial Administration, Dean Emeritus for Judicial College and the Judicial Needs Work Group. She was awarded the Judicial Leadership Award in 2015 from the Access to Justice Board, the Justice Hero Award for her work in Community Court from the Center for Justice in 2014, the Certificate of Excellence Mayoral Award for Teamwork involving her work with Community Court in 2014 and Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for her work with Veterans in Veteran’s Therapeutic Court for the City of Spokane. Spokane Municipal Community Court was awarded the APEX award of merit in September, 2018.



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Chief Craig Meidl serves the Spokane community by overseeing approximately 470 commissioned and civilian Spokane Police Department employees. Spokane is the second largest city in the State of Washington and serves a community of over 220,000 residents.

He also serves on the e-board for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), is currently chair of the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program (HIDTA), and serves on the executive board for the local United Way.

Meidl has had a distinguished career in law enforcement since he joined the Spokane Police Department in 1994. He has served in supervisory positions in Patrol, promoted to Detective in 2000, Sergeant in 2001, Lieutenant in 2007, Precinct Captain in 2014, OOG Assistant Chief of Police in 2015, and Chief of Police in September 2016. He also served on the TAC Team and on the SWAT Team.

As a proud member of the military, Meidl served in the United States Marine Corps Active Reserves from 1989 to 1995: ‘B’ Company, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division (Yakima, WA); Desert Shield/Desert Storm Veteran (12/1990-5/1991) [2nd TankBn,

2nd MarDiv, HQ Co]. His awards included: Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Southwest Asia Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and Kuwaiti Liberation Medal.

Chief Meidl holds a BA from Central Washington University with a major in Law and Justice and a minor in Sociology, and a MA in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University with a Servant Leadership emphasis.



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Hon. Cylenthia LaToye Miller was appointed Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit Court in July 2019. As a circuit court judge, she serves in the Juvenile Section of the Family Division. There, she hears cases involving abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, and related adoption, custody, and guardianship matters at the largest circuit court in the state of Michigan. Before being appointed to the circuit court, Judge Miller served as a Judge at the 36th Judicial District Court from April 10, 2006 through August 18, 2019. She was the Founding & Presiding Judge over Street Outreach Court Detroit, a specialty court program at the 36th Judicial District Court, which assists Detroit's homeless population with clearing their driver's licenses and returning to self-sufficiency (www.streetdemocracy.org/socd). Throughout her tenure as a district court Judge, she presided over cases on all of the court's dockets. Judge Miller has also worked as an Adjunct Professor at Baker College of Allen Park since August 2012 and at Baker College of Jackson since August 2018. Judge Miller is the former Director of the Detroit Workforce Development Department, a Michigan Works! Agency.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Wayne State University in 1988 and attended the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). She received her Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from Michigan State University College of Law in 1996. Judge Miller was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan in 1996 and to the State Bar of Arkansas in 1997.

Judge Miller was appointed to the Michigan Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness in 2018 and will serve as a Council member until 2022. She is also a member of the State Bar of Michigan Standing Committee on Affordable Legal Services until 2020, as well as Chairperson of the Limited Scope Representation, Education Sub-Committee. Judge Miller serves as a member of the faculty of the Michigan Judicial Institute and was a presenter at the May 2019

statewide Judicial Conference. Always having had a special place for Highland Park, Michigan in her heart, she is the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce and served as Chair of the 2018 Highland Park Centennial Celebration Team, appointed by Mayor Hubert Yopp. She was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan District Judges Association, where she served as the Chairperson of the Communications Committee and the Representative to the State Bar of Michigan Limited Scope Representation Work Group. Judge Miller is a Past President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan; a Past Chair of the Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association; a Past President of the Wolverine Bar Association; and a Past President of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.



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Blake Norton is the newly appointed Chief Strategy Officer at the Philadelphia Police Department, and works closely with Commissioner Danielle Outlaw to work across the organization and with external partners to develop policing strategies focused on crime reduction and community engagement.

Previously, Blake served as the Senior Vice President of the Police Foundation until March 2020, where she oversaw initiatives for the Foundation in its mission to improve American policing and enhance the capacity of the criminal justice system to function effectively. Prior to joining the Police Foundation in March 2014, Blake was the Division Director for Local Government Initiatives at the Council of State Government’s Justice Center. Before joining the Justice Center, Blake spent more than 19 years with the Boston Police Department, where her last position was as the Director of Public Affairs and Community Programs. She received her B.A. from the University of Massachusetts and her M.Ed. from Boston University.



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Officer Nate Schwiethale has been with the Wichita Police Department for 19 years. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Wichita State University.

In 2011 Officer Schwiethale received specialized training and certification in Police Homeless Outreach Teams. Officer Schwiethale was selected as one of the first WPD officers to be trained to be on the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Advanced CIT

which are officers who have specialized training to deal with mentally ill individuals.

In 2013 Officer Schwiethale developed the Wichita Police Departments Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.). This team works to help homeless into permanent or transitional housing. To date, H.O.T. has assisted over 1200 homeless out of homelessness. H.O.T. was recognized by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness as being a best practice in law enforcement and Officer Schwiethale was recently added to the federal government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration advisory board to draft training materials for other police agencies across the nation that want to adopt a H.O.T. program. H.O.T. was also recognized by the Department of Justice for decriminalizing homelessness and listed as a best practice on their COPS website. Officer Schwiethale is currently a consultant for LEAP on police Homeless Outreach Teams and has done work for the National Advisory Board for the Department of Justice & COPS.



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Nicola Smith-Kea is a Criminal Justice Manager at Arnold Ventures, where she is responsible for analyzing, designing, and executing high-leverage philanthropic investments in the policing portfolio. Nicola has extensive national experience working with law enforcement, specifically those related to the intersection of law enforcement, mental health, substance use disorder, and homelessness. As a member of the Policing Team, she is committed to the vision of the team's Alternative to Arrest Portfolio, to help law enforcement safely respond to people in crisis in the most effective, least restrictive way that is conducive to individual and public safety. She works to advance police effectiveness and increase positive encounters between police and the community, promoting innovative cross-system responses.

Previously, Nicola served as Law Enforcement Project Manager at the Council of State Government Justice Center. There, she provided technical assistance to the Bureau of Justice Assistance Law Enforcement Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program grantees and supported innovative cross-system collaborations for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who come into contact with the justice system. Nicola oversaw the National Law Enforcement–Mental Health Learning Sites Program and worked closely with a diverse cross-section of law enforcement agencies dedicated to helping jurisdictions improve their responses to people with mental

illnesses. Nicola has also served as an independent program evaluator for USAID's Bureau of Economic Growth, Education and Environment.

She holds an M.S. in sociology from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica and a B.S. in psychology and sociology. She has also received an M.A. in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Maryland, College Park and an M.A. in leadership and change from Antioch University.



Email:
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Hon. Andra D Sparks, (pronounced Ahn dray) is a native of Birmingham, Alabama. He is a 1981 graduate of West End High School, a 1985 graduate of Tuskegee Institute, and a 1988 graduate of the University Of Alabama School Of Law.

After law school, Mr. Sparks served as a military attorney in the United States Army attaining the rank of Captain. He began his military career at Fort Polk, Louisiana where he served as a Legal Assistance Officer, Criminal Prosecutor and a Special Assistant to the U. S. Attorney. His last assignment was as a Military Law Instructor at the United States Army Military Police School at Fort McClellan, Alabama. He was awarded two Army Medals of Commendation during his military career.

Upon leaving the Army, Mr. Sparks became a partner in the law firm Shores, Lee, Sparks, Atha and Choy located in Birmingham, Alabama. He concentrated in the areas of criminal law, domestic relations, and civil litigation.

In March 1995 Mr. Sparks was appointed a Senior Trial Referee at Jefferson County Family Court. In addition to his regular dockets, he was the hearing officer for Alabama's first Juvenile Drug Court from its inception in January 1996 through January 2007. In February 2008 he became the first African American Municipal Judge for the City of Fairfield, Alabama.

In March 2008, he was appointed Municipal Court Judge for the City of Fairfield, the first African American to hold the position. In August 2008, the Birmingham City Council appointed Judge Sparks to a newly established seat on Birmingham's Municipal Court to establish and preside over the Drug Court and Gun Court Dockets. He was reappointed in 2012 and 2017. In December 2010, he was appointed Presiding Judge for the City of Birmingham Municipal

Court (the largest Municipal Court in the State of Alabama with five full time judges, two part-time Special Judges and more than one hundred employees) by the Mayor William A. Bell, and reappointed by Mayor Randall Woodfin in 2017.

Since 2004 Rev. Sparks has been the Senior Pastor of Forty-Fifth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham's East Lake Community.

Andra has been happily married to the former Karen Moore since June 28, 1986. They are the proud parents of Anthony who is married to Ashley and Brittany, who is married to George. They are also the proud grandparents of Aidan, George Solomon, and Ashton.



Email:
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Patricia Tobias has been with the NCSC's Court Consulting Services division as a Principal Court Management Consultant since August 2014. Ms. Tobias has experience working in a wide variety of national, statewide, and local projects including those involving leadership and governance, caseflow management, strategic planning, child welfare, criminal justice reform and improving the justice system response to mental illness. She works with national court organizations and often presents at state and national conferences. She currently serves as the project director of a State Justice Institute (SJI) funded national initiative to improve the justice system response to mental illness.

Prior to becoming a Principal Court Management Consultant, Ms. Tobias served as the Administrative Director of the Idaho Courts for 20+ years, since November 1993. She previously served as the Clerk of the Court, St. Louis County, Missouri (1986-1993); Director of Court Services Division, Office of the State Courts Administrator, Missouri Supreme Court (1980-1986); and Adult and Juvenile Probation Services, Champaign County Circuit Court, Illinois (1976-1979). Ms. Tobias served as President of the Conference of State Court Administrators and as Vice-Chair of the NCSC's Board of Directors (2002-2003) and on the Council of State Governments' Justice Center Board of Directors (2009-2011). She received the NCSC's Warren E. Burger Award for Administrative Excellence, 2012; the Robert L. Doss, Jr., Memorial Scholarship, 2011; the Justice Management Institute's Ernest C. Friesen Award of Excellence, 2008; the Idaho State Bar's Award of Distinction, 2003; the Public Policy Leadership Award, 2003; and the Kramer Award for Excellence in Judicial Administration, 2001. Ms. Tobias received her M.S.J.A. from

the University of Denver College of Law and her B.S. from the University of Illinois.



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Peter Valdez, LMSW, serves as the Court Administrator of the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC), which opened in October 1999 to address quality of life and public order offenses occurring in the downtown Austin area utilizing a restorative justice court model. Under Peter's leadership, DACC identified frequent utilizers, a priority population of defendants that repeatedly received citations within DACC's jurisdiction, and developed an approach to connect these individuals with services to help them achieve long-term stability and obtain housing. In 2012, Peter led the creation and implementation of DACC's Intensive Case Management (ICM) program, which uses a comprehensive client-centered and housing-focused approach to serving individuals experiencing homelessness. Individuals may enter this program through the judicial process, engagement with the Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST), or by requesting services voluntarily.

Peter began his employment with DACC as a case manager when he moved to Austin in the fall of 2000. Two years later, Peter became the Deputy Court Administrator responsible for the supervision of DACC's court operations, case management program, and community service teams. Prior to moving to Austin, Peter resided in Las Cruces, New Mexico where he worked as a crisis therapist for children and adolescents in a community mental health agency. While in Las Cruces, Peter also facilitated court-mandated men's groups with La Casa, Inc., a program for domestic violence victims and their families. Peter has served as a field instructor and supervisor for student interns from the University of Texas-Austin, St. Edwards University, and Texas State University.

Peter is a current member of the Texas Municipal Courts Association, Texas Court Clerks Association, the National Association for Court Management, the National Association for Social Workers (NASW), the Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable Planning Council, Travis County's Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the International City/County Management Association.



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Allyson West has 20 years of experience working in criminal justice. She is the Director of Collaborative Justice Programs for the San Francisco Superior Court and was previously coordinator of the San Francisco Community Justice Center. In 2013 she participated in forming the San Francisco Veterans Justice Court, which she also oversees along with eight other adult treatment courts.

She has been working and volunteering at San Quentin State Prison since 2000 in educational and reentry programs. In 2003, she founded the California Reentry Program, a nonprofit organization specifically designed to provide pre-release parole planning and service referrals to state prisoners. She stepped down as the executive director of that organization January 1, 2020 but continues to volunteer as a program manager.

Allyson has her Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from UC San Diego, and did graduate work studying South Asia at UC Berkeley, including three stints living in India and Pakistan studying Hindi and Urdu. Her work history includes commercial banking, public health, nonprofit work, and consulting. Her current hobby in addition to traveling and hiking is herding feral cats to spay/neuter clinics.



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Sarah Wurzburg is the Deputy Program Director of Behavioral Health at The Council of State Governments Justice Center. Sarah Wurzburg leads the substance addiction portfolio focused on addressing substance use, the opioid epidemic, and mental illnesses throughout the criminal justice system. She assesses local and state behavioral health and criminal justice systems and provides content expertise on addiction and mental illnesses to states involved in the justice reinvestment processes. She oversees training and technical assistance for the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, which includes over 125 active grantees from across the country. Previously, Sarah was a research analyst at the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, where she was the lead for Youth and Women's Services, and authored research reports. Sarah has also worked as a juvenile court advocate and in community substance addiction prevention. She is a graduate of the SAMHSA's Women's Addiction Services Leadership Institute. Sarah received her BA from DePauw University in English and her MA in social services administration from the University of Chicago.